



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 3 April 2009

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- The San Angelo Standard-Times reports that the Texas Railroad Commission is investigating the cause of a propane explosion and fire at a fertilizer plant in Ballinger, Texas on Tuesday. (See item [4](#))
- According to the Sebring News-Sun, Florida Hospital Heartland Division was in lockdown mode and investigators were flooding the Sun 'N Lake area after a large number of envelopes containing a white powder were discovered Thursday morning in Highlands County, Florida. (See item [27](#))

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#); [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

## **Energy Sector**

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *April 1, WCVB 5 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Lawmakers want stiffer fines for utilities.** A small utility company racked by criticism after this winter's massive ice storm crippled the region was grilled Wednesday by lawmakers, who are hoping to put pressure on power companies to improve their performance. NewsCenter 5 reported that a special legislative committee unleashed their frustration on a Unitil vice president representing the company. The secretary of state proposed instituting a \$500,000 per day violation for utility companies that are unable to restore power to customers in a reasonable amount of time following a storm or other outage. Currently, a cap restricts fines for utility companies to \$1 million, according to the secretary of state. He called

the existing regulations a “bargain” Wednesday and asked lawmakers to support a fine increase. If passed, Senate bill 1492 would also grant the Department of Public Utilities the power to hire workers from another power company to restore power in an area and then send the bill to the power provider.

Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/19069393/detail.html>

2. *April 1, Wall Street Journal* – (Alaska) **DOJ: U.S. files civil suit VS BP exploration for Alaska oil spills.** Seeking maximum penalties, the U.S. government filed a civil lawsuit against a BP PLC (BP) unit in Alaska for breaking federal laws during two major 2006 oil spills in Prudhoe Bay, the largest oilfield in the country. The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Anchorage, Alaska, said that BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. discharged 200,000 gallons of oil onto the North Slope during two different oil spills, according to a statement released March 31 by the U.S. Justice Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Transportation.  
Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20090401-705575.html>

3. *April 1, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. court upholds power plant cooling water rule.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can compare costs with benefits to determine the technology that must be used at power plant water-cooling structures, the Supreme Court ruled on April 1 in a setback for those seeking greater protection for aquatic life. By a 6-3 vote, the high court handed a victory to the EPA, Entergy Corp, units of Public Service Enterprise Group Inc., and the Utility Water Act Group, which consists of individual energy companies that operate power plants. The justices overturned a ruling by a U.S. appeals court in New York that the federal clean water law does not permit the EPA to consider the cost-benefit relationship in deciding the best technology available to minimize adverse environmental impact. The court upheld a rule by the EPA in 2004 that set requirements for intake structures at large, existing facilities in an effort to protect fish, shellfish, and other aquatic organisms from being harmed or killed. The rule affected about 550 facilities that account for about 40 percent of the nation’s energy production. The EPA rejected stricter proposals, like requiring existing plants to use closed-cycle cooling technology, which reuses withdrawn water and which would have cost more than \$3.5 billion a year nationwide. The rule was challenged in court by environmental groups and by the states of Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island on the grounds it was not strict enough.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE5304RW20090401?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *April 2, San Angelo Standard-Times* – (Texas) **Fire damages Ballinger plant.** The Texas Railroad Commission is investigating the cause of a propane explosion and fire at a Ballinger fertilizer plant, a plant official said. The explosion occurred March 31 about 3:30 p.m. at Buddy’s Plant Plus, starting a fire that burned until 8 p.m., said the plant general manager. A plant employee and a West Texas Gas Inc. employee were filling

small propane tanks from a bulk tank in a small storage shed more than 50 yards behind the plant. The small tank exploded, rupturing the larger tank and catching the tank shed on fire. Nothing of this nature has happened before at the plant. The Ballinger volunteer fire department, the Runnels County Sheriff's Department, Ballinger police, and the Texas Railroad Commission responded to the fire. The building and a forklift were destroyed in the fire. The plant manager estimated the damage at less than \$20,000.

Source: [http://www.reporternews.com/news/2009/apr/02/no-headline---ballinger\\_fire/](http://www.reporternews.com/news/2009/apr/02/no-headline---ballinger_fire/)

5. *April 2, Marshalltown Times-Republican* – (Iowa) **Hazmat called for area chemical leak.** A leak of hazardous materials prompted a call to the Des Moines hazardous material team and shut down East Nevada Street for 4 hours on April 2. The situation began when materials were being unloaded from a delivery truck at Mechdyne, manufacturer of large-scale virtual reality systems. It was noticed at that time another container on the truck had begun to leak. It was not confirmed whether this was a part of a shipment for Mechdyne or some other location. The material was deemed to be a toxic substance, though its exact level of danger was not immediately confirmed. The street was shut down shortly after 11 a.m. and re-opened at 3:15 p.m. The cleanup was expected to last into the evening hours.

Source: <http://www.timesrepublican.com/page/content.detail/id/515688.html?nav=5005>

6. *April 1, National Association of Chemical Distributors* – (National) **NACD opposes railroad limits on common carrier obligation.** The National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD) on April 1 filed comments with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) in response to a petition from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to determine the extent of common carrier obligation to transport chlorine over long distances. In this particular case, UP questions whether it should be forced to quote rates to a shipper to transport chlorine from Utah to the Gulf Coast, when this would require transportation over a long distance through High Threat Urban Areas when ample chlorine supplies are available closer to the Gulf Coast region. NACD's comments oppose UP's request and argue that if the railroad is granted this exception, the entire common carrier obligation to transport toxic inhalation hazards (TIH) will be threatened. NACD vice president of government affairs wrote, "The common carrier obligation exists for the specific purpose of requiring the railroads to provide service to shippers when they would otherwise choose not to do so because it would be unprofitable or inconvenient. Given the monopolies that the major railroads enjoy in many areas, the common carrier obligation is the only recourse that shippers have to ensure they are able to receive the rail service they need to safely and efficiently transport their products, particularly hazardous materials."

Source: <http://www.nacd.com/news/pressdetail.aspx?pressID=390>

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

7. *April 2, Fort Worth Star-Telegram* – (Texas) **Fort Worth lawmaker airs concerns about low-level nuclear waste being transported on Texas roads.** A state representative in Texas is worried about countless trucks carrying low-level nuclear

waste driving on local roads — likely Interstates 20 and 30 — on the way to a disposal site in Andrews County. Currently, Vermont is sending its waste to the West Texas site, and the legislator is afraid that without additional restrictions more states might follow suit. “Over two-thirds of the nation’s nuclear waste will come through D-FW on its way to Andrews County,” he said. “The question is: are we taking it from two states or all of the states?” The legislator has a bill, presented to the House environmental regulation committee on April 1, to require the Texas Legislature — rather than a specially appointed commission — to sign off on which states can deposit their waste at the site owned by a Dallas billionaire. “All this legislation does is say the buck stops here at the Legislature and not some bureaucratic agency,” he said. “I’m afraid that, ultimately, Texas is going to end up being the nation’s nuclear waste dump.” Currently, a governor-appointed Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission generally makes contract decisions that could determine whether additional states truck their low-level waste to Texas. Representatives of Waste Control Specialists, the company owned by the Dallas billionaire that owns the Andrews County site, said they do not support the bill.

Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/804/story/1294111.html>

8. *April 2, Reuters* – (Florida) **FPL shuts Fla. St Lucie 2 reactor due to seaweed.** FPL Group Inc. shut the 839-megawatt Unit 2 at the Saint Lucie nuclear power station in Florida from 92 percent power on April 1, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. Operators shut the unit due to lowering condenser vacuum caused by algae and seaweed clogging the cooling water intake. Before shutting the unit, operators reduced it from full power to about 94 percent to secure one of the circulation water pumps.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0254380620090402>

See also: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/en.html#en44952>

9. *April 1, Reuters* – (New Jersey) **NRC to renew NJ Oyster Creek reactor license by Apr 9.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) expects to renew the operating license of the nation’s oldest operating nuclear power reactor, Exelon Corp’s Oyster Creek in New Jersey, for another 20 years by April 9. The commission voted 3-to-1 against an appeal filed by a coalition of environmental groups opposed to the renewal, the NRC said Wednesday in an email.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0150559920090401>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. *April 2, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **FDIC imprimatur now costs more.** It just got more expensive for banks raising money through the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.'s debt-guarantee program. On April 1, the FDIC began applying higher fees to bank debt that it guarantees through its Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program, trying to wean financial institutions off its support. Qualifying financial institutions have sold \$124.5 billion of government-backed bonds so far this year, according to the latest figures from data provider Dealogic. Issuance dropped off in February to \$24.8 billion, but surged to \$52.4 billion in March as banks rushed to sell debt before the new fees kicked in. Sales peaked in December, when issuance reached \$86.9 billion, according to Dealogic. Even with the higher fees, banks are likely to keep tapping the program since the financing terms remain far cheaper than selling nonguaranteed debt. "Until banks can issue unsecured debt on a regular basis without the FDIC guarantee, the program will remain an important part of their overall funding plans," said the principal at Smith Breeden Associates in Boulder, Colorado. The FDIC announced last month that it would extend its three-year guarantee program six more months to December 2012 as it became clear financial institutions would still have difficulty selling debt on their own. Since the program was put in place, few firms have sold debt on their own.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123863158276180829.html>

11. *April 1, Dow Jones Newswire* – (New York) **SEC charges investment adviser Stein in \$55M Ponzi scheme.** A Long Island investment adviser was charged by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on April 1 with operating a Ponzi scheme that took in more than \$55 million. The SEC, in a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, alleges that a Roslyn, New York investment adviser solicited funds from more than 83 investors and more than \$55 million moved through accounts of entities he ran. Separately, the U.S. Attorney's office in Brooklyn also charged the investment adviser, who lives in Manhattan, with wire fraud for allegedly defrauding one of his clients out of more than \$6.5 million. If convicted of wire fraud, the 59 years old faces up to 30 years in prison. He is expected to appear before a federal magistrate judge in Brooklyn later on April 1. The SEC alleges that the investment adviser used investor money to pay off older investors in a classic Ponzi scheme and used their funds for some of his personal expenses.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20090401-712321.html>

12. *April 1, Akron Beacon Journal* – (Ohio) **Police warn of phone scam.** Akron-area police departments are warning citizens of an automated phone scam that several Akron and Wadsworth residents received on April 1. The automated message says that the person's credit card or debit card may be jeopardized. The message asks the victim to leave his or her account numbers and expiration dates for verification. The message says GenFed Credit Union is responsible for the message. Akron police remind residents not to give out personal information over the phone. Banks and other financial institutions do not ask for such information by phone.

Source: [http://www.ohio.com/news/break\\_news/42291747.html](http://www.ohio.com/news/break_news/42291747.html)

13. *April 1, Bloomberg* – (National) **Bair says FDIC may create a division to shut non-bank companies.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. would create a division to take over and shut non-bank financial companies as part of the overhaul of U.S. regulations, the chairman said. The Treasury Secretary suggested the FDIC get power to close failing non-bank institutions when he testified at a House Financial Services Committee hearing on March 26. The chairman said the agency is ready to take on the added authority. “If Congress did give it to us, we should consider perhaps a separate unit under the FDIC board or a separately branded name to deal with the non-bank institutions,” the chairman said at an American Bankers Association meeting in Washington. “Legally separate and separately branded might be the way to go.” The U.S. Treasury and the FDIC would be the main agencies to handle the closing of systemically important financial companies that are not banks. The plan follows procedures used by the FDIC on bank failures, without tapping the agency’s insurance fund. A new funding mechanism would be used, the Treasury has said.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aLXPYD5vYaug&refer=home>

14. *April 1, Computerworld* – (National) **PCI security standard gets ripped at House hearing.** The PCI standard, long touted as one of the private sector’s best attempts to regulate itself on data security, is increasingly showing signs of coming apart at the seams. At a U.S. House of Representatives hearing on March 31, federal lawmakers and representatives of the retail industry challenged the effectiveness of the PCI rules, which are formally known as the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS). They claimed that the standard, which was created by the major credit card companies for use by all organizations that accept credit and debit card transactions, is overly complex and has done little to stop payment card data thefts and fraud. The hearing, held by a subcommittee of the House Committee on Homeland Security, also highlighted the longstanding bitter divide between retailers on one side and banks and credit card companies on the other over the role that the latter organizations should play in protecting card data. In one of the bluntest denunciations of PCI DSS to date, a Representative of New York, chairwoman of the subcommittee that held the hearing, said the standard by itself is simply not enough to protect cardholder data. The PCI rules are not “worthless,” she said. But, she added, “I do want to dispel the myth once and for all that PCI compliance is enough to keep a company secure. It is not, and the credit card companies acknowledge that. Much of PCI’s limitations have to do with the static nature of the standard’s requirements, according to the Representative, who said the rules are ineffective at dealing with the highly dynamic security threats that retailers and other merchants now face.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9130901&intsrc=news\\_ts\\_head](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9130901&intsrc=news_ts_head)

15. *April 1, Myrtle Beach Sun News* – (South Carolina) **Bank scam telephone calls target area residents.** A phishing scam involving Conway National Bank is circulating in the



Myrtle Beach area, according to bank officials. A recorded call is being made to area residents telling them their bank account or bank card has been compromised, but it is all a scam, said the Conway National Bank president. Conway National Bank account holders and non-customers are being targeted with the recorded call, similar to a text message scam that circulated a month ago. “It is totally random,” the president said. “They are phishing for information from the customers and they are getting non-customers too. It is a scam and [residents] should not respond to it.” Police had not received any reports about the scam, but bank officials said they had received numerous calls on April 1. The calls and text messages are part of a phishing scam, where information seems to come from a legitimate organization, but a person is asked for personal financial information that the institutions should already have, officials said.

Source: [http://www.thesunnews.com/news/breaking\\_news/story/843508.html](http://www.thesunnews.com/news/breaking_news/story/843508.html)

16. *March 31, CNET News* – (International) **Symantec investigating customer credit-card data theft.** Symantec is investigating allegations that a call center in India leaked credit card numbers of its customers to someone who then sold them to BBC News reporters posing as criminals. The security company has informed U.K. privacy authorities and attorneys general and officials in eight U.S. states and Puerto Rico of the allegations that three U.K. customers had credit card information leaked and that about 200 U.S. customers may have been affected because of interactions with the call center, a Symantec spokesman said March 31. “We nailed it down to one agent at the call center” who handled the Symantec customers, he said. That agent was put on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation. In addition to Puerto Rico, the states contacted were New Hampshire, Maryland, New Jersey, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Virginia, and North Carolina. It was unclear exactly how the data of the three U.K. customers got from the call center into the hands of the man who the BBC News said sold the credit card numbers. Nor was it clear whether any data from the U.S. customers was leaked. There is no evidence that any U.S. data was exposed. When the reporters contacted some of the card owners, three of them said that they had bought Norton software from Symantec over the phone using their credit cards.

Source: [http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009\\_3-10208865-83.html?tag=newsEditorsPicksArea.0](http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10208865-83.html?tag=newsEditorsPicksArea.0)

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## **Transportation Sector**

17. *April 1, Bay City News Service* – (California) **Power outage shuts down Oakland airport for 20 minutes.** A power outage shut down operations at Oakland International Airport for about 20 minutes the afternoon of April 1, an airport spokeswoman said. The outage began at about 1 p.m. in Terminal 1, which handles domestic and international flights for all airlines except Southwest Airlines, the spokeswoman said. The airport was forced to stop screening passengers at security checkpoints, and airlines were unable to provide tickets to passengers or board them onto planes. “Essentially, things just came to a stop until we were able to investigate the situation and get it resolved,” said the spokeswoman. Power was restored at about 1:20 p.m. However, they did not immediately know whether any flights were delayed. The cause of the outage is under

investigation.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_12048122](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_12048122)

18. *April 1, Kentucky News Desk* – (Kentucky) **Bridge weight limit begins Thursday.** The 15-ton weight limit on the Madison-Milton Bridge will go into effect on April 2. Signs will be installed April 1 to advise truckers of the new weight restriction. Kentucky Transportation Cabinet officials announced in mid-March that the weight restriction would be added to the bridge after receiving a report from a fracture-critical study that was done in December 2008. The report from the study listed severe deterioration of a gusset plate on the Indiana side of the bridge. Gusset plates are steel plates that tie beams together on a bridge. “As a precaution, cabinet officials decided to post the bridge at a 15-ton weight limit while developing plans for repairs,” said a public information officer for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District 5. Because of the weight restriction, tractor-trailers will be banned from the bridge and forced to use river crossings at the Markland Locks, Dam Bridge, and Kennedy Bridge. The Transportation Cabinet spokesman said the state will not allow an exemption for emergency service vehicles that weigh more than 15 tons. They will have to use the alternate routes.

Source:

<http://madisoncourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=178&SubSectionID=270&ArticleID=50083>

19. *April 1, USA Today* – (Maine) **United jet with engine trouble lands in Maine.** A United Airlines Boeing 767, carrying 178 passengers and 11 crew, made an emergency landing at Bangor International Airport. An airport spokeswoman says the pilots reported smoke in the cockpit and failure in one of the plane’s two engines. Flight 923 landed without incident, she said, and passengers prepared to continue their flight from London to Dulles International Airport in Virginia.

Source: <http://blogs.usatoday.com/ondeadline/2009/04/united-jet-with-engine-trouble-lands-in-maine.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

20. *April 1, Joplin Globe* – (Missouri) **Joplin man joins tea-bag protest w/ Tax Day Tea Party.** A Joplin, Missouri resident staged a one-man tax protest outside the main Joplin post office Wednesday. He stood on the public sidewalk, urging passers-by to mail the tags and strings from tea bags to the White House to protest the federal deficit. The tea bags refer to the Boston Tea Party, a 1773 protest by American colonists against a tax increase on tea by the British. He provided tea bags and envelopes set up on a card table. A yellow legal pad was available for those who wanted to write down grievances.

Source: [http://www.joplinglobe.com/joplin\\_metro/local\\_story\\_091145047.html](http://www.joplinglobe.com/joplin_metro/local_story_091145047.html)

For separate incidents, see also: [Suspicious envelopes sent to city hall](#); [Suspicious envelope sent to Shea-Porter office](#); [Polis office receives ‘suspicious’ tea bags in mail](#)

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

21. *April 1, GRAINNET* – (Texas) **OSHA cites Victoria-Calhoun Grain Co. in Placedo, TX for 35 safety and health violations after 2008 engulfment death.** The U.S. Department of Labor's [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) (OSHA) has cited Victoria-Calhoun Grain Co., following a worker's fatality, with three alleged willful and 32 serious violations of safety standards at the company's facility in Placedo. In this case, an employee was walking on top of the grain using a pole to loosen it. When the grain collapsed beneath him, he became engulfed and suffocated. OSHA's Corpus Christi Area Office began its investigation October 1, 2008 at the company's facility in Placedo. The investigation found willful violations, including failing to provide lockout/tagout safeguards during confined space entry and failing to provide workers with personal protective equipment. Victoria-Calhoun Grain, which employs about 25 workers at its Placedo location, is an agricultural storage facility engaged in buying, receiving, and marketing grain, such as corn, sorghum, and oats, from farmers. OSHA has proposed \$109,050 in penalties against the company for the safety violations. The company has 15 business days from receipt of the citations to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director in Corpus Christi, or contest the citations and proposed penalties before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

Source:

[http://www.grainnet.com/articles/OSHA\\_Cites\\_Victoria\\_Calhoun\\_Grain\\_Co\\_in\\_Placedo\\_TX\\_for\\_35\\_Safety\\_and\\_Health\\_Violations\\_After\\_2008\\_Engulfment\\_Death\\_-\\_73387.html](http://www.grainnet.com/articles/OSHA_Cites_Victoria_Calhoun_Grain_Co_in_Placedo_TX_for_35_Safety_and_Health_Violations_After_2008_Engulfment_Death_-_73387.html)

22. *March 31, MeatingPlace.com* – (National) **FSIS to focus on retailers to improve meat safety.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) will pay more attention to retail establishments that grind trim and on retailers that slice deli meat because they have not been following proper recordkeeping and food safety procedures, an agency official told attendees of the North American Meat Processors conference in Chicago. The deputy assistant administrator of FSIS's Office of Policy, Program and Employment Development said the agency has found that butchers in retail establishments are not sufficiently maintaining grinding logs, which complicates the process of pinpointing the source of an E. coli O157:H7 outbreak during a recall. He also said the agency has found that deli departments generally have insanitary conditions, which raises the risk that an outbreak of listeria monocytogenes would occur. The agency says a person is seven times likelier to die from listeria after eating deli meat produced by a retailer than by a federal plant. Unlike federal meat plants, retail establishments are not monitored daily by at least one FSIS inspector because current laws do not give the agency inspection authority at such outlets. The USDA is developing guidance for retailers on effective corrective steps and is pursuing rulemaking to make more explicit the types of records that should be kept.

Source: <http://www.foodhaccp.com/1news/033109m.html>

23. *March 31, WSB 2 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Tanker explodes on I-85 in Coweta County.** A tanker truck crashed with another vehicle and burst into flames, blocking all lanes of I-

85 in both directions in Coweta County Tuesday afternoon for almost two hours. All lanes have since been reopened. Part of Northgate High School was evacuated to the main campus building because of the fire as a precaution. An official from the Georgia Department of Transportation called Channel 2 Action News to report one injury in the crash and said the tanker truck was carrying grain. Police, fire units, EMS, and HERO units were called to the scene. The Georgia Transportation Department confirmed the tanker exploded.

Source: <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/19056440/detail.html#->

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## **Water Sector**

24. *April 1, Kansas City Star* – (Missouri) **Independence ordered to fix sanitary sewer system.** Independence must fix its sanitary sewer system, at a possible cost of \$35 million or more, to prevent untreated sewage from escaping into the Missouri River watershed. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has documented numerous violations of the Federal Clean Water Act by the city. That includes 430 sanitary sewer overflows, resulting in the discharge of millions of gallons of untreated sewage into the watershed since late 2000. “It is a large volume of untreated sewage, literally millions of gallons into the watershed every year,” said an EPA spokesman. “This agreement seeks to end that.” Under a consent decree, Independence will address its Rock Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and its collection and transmission system.

Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics/story/1119803.html>

25. *April 1, HS Daily Wire* – (National) **Disinfectants create toxic by-products.** A recent study shows that the chemicals used to purify water for drinking and use in swimming pools react with organic material in the water yielding toxic consequences. A University of Illinois geneticist said that disinfection by-products in water are the unintended consequence of water purification. “The reason that you and I can go to a drinking fountain and not be fearful of getting cholera is because we disinfect water in the United States,” he said. “But the process of disinfecting water with chlorine and chloramines and other types of disinfectants generates a class of compounds in the water that are called disinfection by-products. The disinfectant reacts with the organic material in the water and generates hundreds of different compounds. Some of these are toxic, some can cause birth defects, some are genotoxic, which damage DNA, and some we know are also carcinogenic.”

Source: <http://www.hsdailywire.com/single.php?id=7688>

26. *March 31, KOMO 4 Seattle* – (Washington) **State probes worker injury at Brightwater site.** State officials are investigating an accident at the construction site of King County’s Brightwater Sewage Treatment System project. County officials said a worker was hit by a rail car while working in a tunnel on March 30. The worker, an employee of a contractor, was taken to Harborview Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries. His condition was not available. The injury is the latest incident in a string of problems that have plagued the Kenmore site. Earlier this month, the Brightwater project was blamed for a large sinkhole at the foot of a private driveway on

the Eastside. County officials admitted Brightwater crews working some 150 feet below the surface caused the ground to sink away. The county's construction manager for the tunneling projects said the boring machine likely excavated too much ground, creating an air pocket that worked its way up to the surface.

Source: <http://www.komonews.com/news/42238992.html>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

27. *April 2, Sebring News-Sun* – (Florida) **Anthrax scare up to 17 locations.** Florida Hospital Heartland Division was in lockdown mode and investigators were flooding the Sun 'N Lake area after a large number of envelopes containing a white powder were discovered Thursday morning. The reports of envelopes continued to come in at 3 p.m. on Thursday. The public information officer for Highlands County said that there are 17 confirmed locations where envelopes have been found. She also said investigators have two suspects, but "nothing definite." In addition to the hospital, which had around 30 envelopes placed on cars in the staff parking lot, envelopes have been found at the Sun 'N Lake town hall, and in mailboxes on numerous houses throughout the subdivision. At least three people opened the envelopes and were exposed to the powder, according to one report. Officials from the FBI, the FDLE, and several other agencies were on site, in addition to local law enforcement. According to an 11 a.m. briefing, an individual was seen leaving the hospital early Thursday morning and investigators are trying to track that person down. "We believe this is an elaborate hoax, but we are treating this as a serious anthrax case until we get the results from the State Health Department," said the Highlands County sheriff.

Source: <http://www.newssun.com/news/0403-anthrax-sebring-hospital>

28. *April 1, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Egyptian toddler contracts bird flu.** An Egyptian toddler has contracted bird flu, the 61st recorded case since the first outbreak of the disease in the country in 2006, state-news agency MENA reported on April 1. Twenty-three people have died of bird flu in Egypt. Most of the victims have been young girls or women, who are generally in charge of looking after poultry in rural areas. The World Health Organization called last month for an investigation into why many of the victims have been young children.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gnFGON57ICteXlzKgNCG55N39uxw>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

29. *April 2, Associated Press* – (Mississippi) **2 ships at former base available for emergencies.** A south Mississippi Naval facility abandoned by the military will soon house two cargo ships that will be available for emergencies. The Base Realignment and Closure Commission voted in 2005 to shut down Naval Station Pascagoula after a 14-

year presence on Singing River Island. Now, officials say a Massachusetts company will soon park two cargo ships at the former naval base. They will be on call for the government in case of a national emergency. Jackson County Port Authority commissioners approved a sublease contract with Darkwater Marine Services in a special meeting on March 31. Darkwater won a contract with the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration to maintain the two 630-foot ships on the Gulf Coast.

Source: [http://www.wxvt.com/Global/story.asp?S=10116021&nav=menu1344\\_2](http://www.wxvt.com/Global/story.asp?S=10116021&nav=menu1344_2)

30. *April 1, Omaha World Herald* – (Nebraska) **Powder found at HHS called harmless.** Police and hazardous materials crews were called on April 1 to the State Office Building at 13th and Farnam Streets to investigate a yellow-and-white powder that was found at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services office. Field tests conducted on the powder showed that it is a cleaning product, said the Omaha Fire Battalion chief. State workers told a visitor to the HHS office that someone was throwing away an envelope when the person noticed the powder. The fire battalion chief said the powder was in the trash when crews arrived. About 100 people who were in the HHS office were taken to a different part of the floor about 11 a.m. Officials determined the substance was not dangerous about half an hour later.

Source: [http://omaha.com/index.php?u\\_page=2798&u\\_sid=10600464](http://omaha.com/index.php?u_page=2798&u_sid=10600464)

31. *April 1, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Community college evacuates after bomb threat.** Three buildings at a Cedar Rapids community college were briefly evacuated Wednesday after a TV station told police they received a threatening e-mail about the school. Staffers at WHO-TV in Des Moines called police to report the threat. It mentioned an explosive device that was not found during a subsequent search. A Cedar Rapids fire department spokesman said the threat mentioned a dislike for the school. No other information was given. Kirkwood security and maintenance searched the buildings, as the Cedar Rapids police's bomb squad stood by. Students and staff members returned the buildings after the search, which took about an hour.

Source: <http://www.kcci.com/news/19068920/detail.html>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

32. *April 1, InfoWorld* – (National) **Twitter added to federal emergency response network.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency has announced it is adding Twitter, the microblogging service, to the national emergency response network. Beginning in January 2010, individuals in distress will be able to send @replies or "direct messages" to @t911help. Root servers at Twitter co-location facilities will use IP addresses and geolocation databases to route messages to the first responders closest to the sender's physical address. Twitter is currently building out its server capacity to meet the increased demand.

Source: [http://www.infoworld.com/article/09/04/01/13NF-Twitter-April-Fools\\_1.html](http://www.infoworld.com/article/09/04/01/13NF-Twitter-April-Fools_1.html)

33. *April 1, Whittier Daily News* – (California) **Montebello police offer \$10,000 for**

**missing guns.** Montebello, California police increased its reward to \$10,000 for the return of a shotgun and an assault rifle taken from a stolen patrol car 24 days ago. The department spokesman said they are hoping the larger reward will entice whoever has the weapons to turn them in. The spokesman added that the Crime Suppression Unit is working leads on the case. No one has yet been arrested for the theft.

Source: [http://www.whittierdailynews.com/crime/ci\\_12048750](http://www.whittierdailynews.com/crime/ci_12048750)

34. *March 31, Newsroom Solutions* – (Arizona) **U.S. ill equipped to stop weapon smuggling into Mexico.** Law enforcement authorities say Arizona's six ports of entry along the Mexican border are unequipped to screen vehicles and trains for smuggled weapons and cash. The Presidential Administration vowed last week to crack down on gun smuggling and money laundering that are fueling Mexico's violent drug war. The obvious problem, however, is that Arizona's ports of entry were built to screen traffic heading north from Mexico into the United States.

Source: <http://mystateline.com/content/fulltext/?cid=56511>

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## **Information Technology**

35. *April 2, Tulsa World* – (International) **Computer worm does little damage.** The much hyped Conficker malware did not do catastrophic damage to the world's computers on April 1 as some had feared. However, local computer professionals such as the president of Geek Rescue said the worm has indeed caused some problems in local computers. "It is easy to remove by itself, but it is usually accompanied by other infections," he said. "It opens up a security hole for more malware to enter." The worm previously checked 500 semi-randomly generated Web sites seeking new instructions. On April 1, some versions of Conficker expanded that check to 50,000 sites. The president and CEO of Avansic Digital Forensics Professionals in Tulsa said many in the computer industry paid close attention to Conficker due to its complexity and its unknown ultimate function. Still, he and others had doubted it would cause destruction. "It used to be people created worms for notoriety," he said. "Nowadays, worms are being built to make money. They are not going to destroy your computer unless there is money in it somehow."

Source:

[http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?subjectid=52&articleid=20090402\\_52\\_E1\\_TheCon670684](http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?subjectid=52&articleid=20090402_52_E1_TheCon670684)

36. *April 1, PC Magazine* – (International) **New malware specifically targets Firefox.** Webroot has uncovered adware that targets the Firefox platform. The malware resembles DNSChanger, a common DNS hijacking threat, but operates differently. Instead of hacking the registry to change DNS, the new variant throws a DLL into the C:\Program Files\Mozilla Firefox\components directory and therefore runs inside the browser. This is not a vulnerability in Firefox in any sense; in order for this to happen the user has to run a malicious program as Administrator or some other privileged account. But it does show that some malware authors see enough potential in Firefox to write special malware for it. The use of a DLL does make the malware specific to

Windows, although it may be possible to write versions for other platforms as well. Like DNSChanger it intercepts certain operations, like search requests, and redirects them through a Ukrainian host previously used by DNSChanger. A second piece of Firefox adware came bundled with the installer for a 3rd party Firefox plugin called PlayMP3z. The terms of service agreement that everyone just clicks through explicitly permits the software. It is called Foxicle and it generates popup and popunder ads. Success for the early entries in the Firefox malware market could set a signal for other IE-only players that it is time to go cross-platform.

Source: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2344286,00.asp>

37. *April 1, IDG News Service* – (International) **Legislation would create new cybersecurity regulations.** Two U.S. senators have introduced legislation that would overhaul the nation's cybersecurity efforts, and would reportedly allow the government to regulate some private company cybersecurity efforts for the first time. A Senator from West Virginia and a Senator from Maine introduced the legislation on April 1, but some details were not immediately available. Earlier on April 1, the Washington Post reported that the legislation will include new mandates on government networks and on private networks that control electrical grids, water distribution, and other essential services. A spokeswoman for the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee said on April 1 she had few details about the bill. The bill would establish a new national cybersecurity advisor in the executive office of the U.S. President, and it would "remake the relationship between the government and the private sector on cybersecurity," a committee news release said. "We must protect our critical infrastructure at all costs, from our water to our electricity, to banking, traffic lights and electronic health records, the list goes on," the Senator from West Virginia said in a statement. "It is an understatement to say that cybersecurity is one of the most important issues we face; the increasingly connected nature of our lives only amplifies our vulnerability to cyber attacks and we must act now."

Source:

[http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/162423/legislation\\_would\\_create\\_new\\_cybersecurity\\_regulations.html](http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/162423/legislation_would_create_new_cybersecurity_regulations.html)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## Communications Sector

38. *April 1, KITV 4 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **Oceanic cable hit by outages statewide.** Customers of Oceanic Time Warner Cable, phone, and Roadrunner Internet service lost services in parts of Hawaii on April 1. The company lost power at its Mililani facility at



8:26 a.m., which caused the outage, Oceanic officials said. Workers restored power at 8:50 a.m. The company began slowly bringing services back online, Oceanic officials said. Digital cable TV was restored statewide; Internet and digital phone have been restored in some areas. Oceanic estimated that about 50 percent of Oahu lost Internet and phone services, with some video channels lost across the state, officials said.

Source: <http://www.kitv.com/money/19067950/detail.html>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

39. *March 31, KIRO 7 Seattle* – (Washington) **Game causes bomb threat, evacuations.**

Fife police said a hoax bomb that caused evacuations and brought multiple law enforcement agencies to a Costco store in Fife Tuesday morning was the result of a game between friends. Fife patrol commander said the bomb scare started when a box with the words, “Bomb. You’re Dead,” was found in the Costco parking lot by a FedEx driver at 8:22 a.m. The patrol commander said the box made a “chirping” sound when approached. A bomb squad, agents from the Department of Tobacco, Alcohol, Firearms and Explosives, Fife police, and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents responded. About 85 people evacuated the Costco and other surrounding businesses while a bomb disposal robot destroyed the package, which contained a motion sensor and some batteries. Meanwhile, back at the Fife Police Department Headquarters, a man in his 30s walked in and said, “I think you want to talk to me. I think that thing going on over (at the Costco) is about me,” according to the patrol commander. He also said the man explained that he and several friends play a game in which they are given missions to assassinate one another. According to the man’s account, the group will ordinarily use dart guns to complete their “mission.” On Tuesday, however, the man decided to take the game “to the next level,” and fashioned a phony bomb with a motion detector and then used magnets to attach it to a friend’s car that was parked outside the Costco where the friend works.

Source: <http://www.kirotv.com/news/19054797/detail.html>

40. *March 31, Pratt Tribune* – (Kansas) **Weight of snow strains downtown roofs.** Several downtown Pratt, Kansas businesses were evacuated for a time and two were abandoned Monday after melting snow caused a partial roof collapse and ceiling collapse at the offices of New York Life and lesser damage to Crossings Counseling and Consulting. Both offices share the same building and both were abandoned. The collapse prompted firefighters to conduct a business wide inspection of all downtown businesses as well as public buildings, including schools, to look for more potential roof failures. Customers were evacuated from ALCO for a short time after the report of a roof collapse in the building, but the collapsed roof was on a small storage building on the south side of ALCO and did not harm the main building. Other buildings were evacuated for a time but later cleared for occupancy, including the Pratt Tribune, Cox Communication, Memories, Bolens Office Supply, H and R Block, Hospice offices, and EBH.

Source: <http://www.pratttribune.com/news/x180618528/Weight-of-snow-strains-downtown-roofs>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Dams Sector**

41. *April 2, Appeal-Democrat* – (California) **Fire flares anew in riverbottoms.** Fire forced transients to flee a tent colony on the Yuba City riverbottoms for the second time in three nights, their camps the apparent casualties of a three-year drought. Witnesses reported seeing the blaze reappear shortly before 8:40 p.m. Tuesday east of Live Oak Boulevard and Queens Avenue. The first Yuba City firefighters arrived about 6 minutes later to find about 2 acres in flames below the Feather River levee, and the fire eventually grew to 48 acres, according to a fire department spokesman. Fire crews created a 300-yard fire line to trap the flames and prevent their further spread to the levee. The division chief called the latest fire “suspicious” and said it was not a revival of the earlier one, which scorched camp sites just to the south. He also warned that a prolonged dry spell has left vegetation along the Feather River more vulnerable to fires — and much earlier in the year than usual.

Source: [http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/fire\\_75974\\_article.html/live\\_east.html](http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/fire_75974_article.html/live_east.html)

42. *April 2, WALB 10 Albany* – (Georgia) **Rising water covers Cook County dam.** This week’s heavy rainfall left the dam on Reed Bingham State Park’s lake submerged beneath its rising waters. That lake is fed by the Little River. Residents in nearby subdivisions are worried about the flooding that would occur if the dam should break. “We’ve had lots of different agencies here to look at the dam and help us assess the situation,” said a park manager of Reed Bingham. “Right now, we don’t have any major concerns, but we’re monitoring the situation.” The dam stands about 13 feet tall. Currently, the water is more than 5 feet over the dam, putting it over 18 feet. The Little River’s normal flow for this time of year is between 200 and 400 cubic feet of water per second. At the height of this week’s rain, the flow was 15,500 cubic feet per second. The flow is carrying various large debris. Park workers are working hard to keep all dangerous debris away from the dam. Full-size trees have even been pulled from the lake. Still, park workers do not believe the dam will break. “Everything’s ok right now. There is a very elaborate plan if that does happen. We don’t anticipate that happening,” assures the manager. A tornado passed above the dam Wednesday night, causing the park to be evacuated. While one can not currently see the Cook County Dam, officials assure those in nearby communities that the dam is there, and appears strong enough to withstand the coming storms.

Source: [http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=10114073&nav=menu37\\_2](http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=10114073&nav=menu37_2)

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## **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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